(b) if so, the reasons thereof and the remedial measures being taken in this regard;

(c) the number of such projects which have been sanctioned for other sectors and the present status of their implementation; and

(d) whether any task force has been appointed by Government for their speedy implementation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The system has been made operational at Delhi airport recently and is likely to be commissioned shortly. The system in Mumbai is expected to be commissioned by the end of March, 1999.

The escalation in costs was mainly due to the following factors:—

1. Procedural delays in acquisition of land for installation of navigational Aids at far flung areas. 2. Delays in commencement of civil works at Mumbai due to prolonged and heavy monsoons during 1993-94. 3. Mid course change in scope of work. 4. Breakdown of components during installation and testing of the equipment as a result of which such components had to be sent back to USA for repairs/replacement. 5. Certain modifications had to be carried out by the contractor to ensure that their equipment fully meets with AAI specifications. Such delay was for more than a year. 6. Foreign exchange rate variation. 7. Federal Aviation Administration consultancy fee and Project Management Agencies charges. 8. Escalation of construction costs due to rise in cost indices.

(c) Six such projects have been sanctioned by the Government for installation of Primary and Secondary Radars at Trivandrum. Hyderabad, Guwahati and Ahmedabad at a total cost of Rs. 117.43 Crores. All these Radars have since been commissioned. In addition, two more projects for installation of Primary and Secondary Radars were also approved by the Government in 1995 for Calcutta and Chennai Airports. The Calcutta Radars were commissioned in April 1998 and the Chennai Radars were commissioned in September 1998.

(d) No, Sir. However, the progress of work is reviewed by the Government from time to time.

Discrimination in Promotion of SC/ST employees in Air India

954. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of comjplaints have been received by Air India from its SC/ST employees belonging to the Department of Information Technology regarding discrimination in promotions and other service matters;

(b) if so, whether these complaints were investigated and corrective action taken; and

(c) the details of each complaint with action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Five (5) complaints have been received by Air India from its employees of the Department of Information Technology. The complaints pertain to promotion, transfer, foreign posting etc. One complaint was not substantiated. Necessary corrective action has been taken/is being taken in the remaining four (4) cases.

Registered Trade Unions in Indian Airlines

955. SHRI C. O. POULOSE:
SHRI JIBON ROY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of registered trade unions in Indian Airlines;

(b) how many of them have been recognised by the Indian Airlines and the details thereof;

(c) how many employees are covered by each of these recognised unions; and;

(d) the number of pending industrial disputes raised by each of the recognised unions?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Indian Airlines has eight recognised Unions/Associations. The names of these unions and the number of employees represented each Union are given in the Statement (*See* below). Besides these, there are eleven unrecognised Unions/Associations, of which, ten are registered Unions/ Associations.

(d) There are thirteen pending industrial disputes, out of which twelve have been raised by the Air Corporations Employees' Union (ACEU) and the remaining one by ICPA (Indian Commercial Pilots Association).

Statement

Recognised Unions/Association of Indian Airlines Limited

S. No.	Name of the Union/Association	No. of employees represented (1.4.1998)
1.	Air Corporation Employees' union (ACEU)	14806
2.	Indian Aircraft Technicians Association	3071
3.	Indian Commercial Pilots' Association (ICPA)	311
4.	All India Aircraft Engineers' Association	664
5.	Indian Airlines Officers' Association	1315
6.	Airlines Radio Officers' and Flight Operators Officers' Association	105
7.	Indian Flight Engineers' Association	35
8.	Airlines Ground Instructors' Association	17
	TOTAL	20324

Upgradation of Bagdogra Airport

956. SHRI DAWA LAMA:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request from the Government of West Bengal to upgrade the Bagdogra Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of the Bagdogra Airport and the plans of Government to improve the same; and

(d) whether Government will consider to allow international charter flights to land at this airport which will be so useful for promotion of tourism in the entire North-East?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) In the recent past no request has been recorded from the West Bengal Government to upgrade Bagdogra Airport. The Bagdogra Airport belongs to the Ministry of Defence and Airports Authority of India (AAI) is maintaining a civil enclave. AAI is constructing a new terminal building with modern passenger amenities at a cost of Rs. 11.43 crore. The work is likely to be completed by October, 1999. There is also a proposal to provide a separate